I. Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph appearing at line 29 of page 3 by replacing it with the following paragraph:

The term "at least partially surround" connotes at least partial, opposing establishment of one part or structure around another (see, e.g., Fig. 1). The compression sleeve element may have a first elongated member compression surface (11) and a larger elongated compression member surface (12) that act to transfer a compression force to the first elongated member and the larger elongated member, respectively. In some embodiments, the first elongated member compression surface may be an inner part of an inwardly projecting, annular (or partially annular) lip that overhangs at least part of an edge of the larger elongated member. Additionally, for purposes relative to clarity of description of the inventive technology, the third portion of the first elongated member may ~~be the to~~ have a first longitudinal axis (13) and the at least a fourth portion of the larger elongated member may have a second longitudinal axis (14). It should be noted that the term "at least a fourth portion" may be used because, indeed, it may be that in some embodiments of the inventive technology the entire larger elongated member may have nested within it the third portion of the first elongated member.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at line 9 of page 4 by replacing it with the following paragraph:

The inventive technology may include a compression enhancement element that is situated so that, upon its activation (e.g., upon rotation of a clamping lever (15) of a clamp (16) having an eccentric ~~cam (1&)~~ cam (17) and/or sufficient rotation of a threaded bolt as in cases where there is no clamping lever (see Fig. 7), it forces the larger elongated member compression surface towards the larger elongated member, and the first elongated member compression surface towards a site (18) on the first elongated member that is not within the larger elongated member, thereby retaining the first elongated member in fixed position relative to the larger elongated member. The term

"forces…towards" describes that which occurs whenever a compressive force is generated; the term is broad enough to cover the case where each of the aforementioned compression surfaces are either in direct contact with a respective elongated member or not. Similarly, one part may surround or partially surround another (or be around or be partially around another) notwithstanding the absence of direct contact between the two parts. Of course, direct contact may be absent where there is established within at least part of the larger elongated member (e.g., a second portion thereof) an annular gap filler (19) whose purpose may be to fill a space between part of the larger elongated member and part of the first elongated member nested within. Often, however, the first elongated member compression surface is adequately sized (e.g., small enough in diameter) to directly contact the first elongated member, rendering an annular gap filler unnecessary. Of course, the use of significantly differently sized tubes as part of a telescoping apparatus is one way in which this problem may arise. It should be understood that, as used herein, annular does not require a cross-section having concentric or even circular inner and/or outer surface cross-section shapes. Indeed, as but one example, the inner shape may be vertically ribbed such that it contacts the first elongated member at only intermittent vertical sections (e.g., see Fig. 2).

Please amend the paragraph appearing at line 26 of page 5 by replacing it with the following paragraph:

Deactivation of the compression enhancement element connotes manipulation of the compression retention element only such that the compressive force that retains the first elongated member in fixed relative position is removed. Deactivation is a step that is different and exclusive of the step of effective disengagement, discussed below. In embodiments where there is no clamping lever, deactivation may involve the sufficient loosening of a bolt to just release the compressive force that retains the first elongated member in fixed position relative to the larger elongated member. In embodiments where there is a clamping lever (see, e.g. Fig. 1), deactivation may only involve the manipulation of the lever to just remove the compressive force. Even in embodiments where there is a clamping lever, there may be a threaded bolt (24) and nut ~~(25)~~ (the lever,

nut, bolt and collar all considered parts of the compression enhancement element), but in such levered designs, activation and deactivation of the compression enhancement element typically does not involve manipulation of that bolt or nut. After deactivation, the first elongated member may be movable relative to the larger elongated member.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at line 1 of page 22 by replacing it with the following paragraph: